AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method of defining an uplink transmission frame timing, for use in a mobile communications system in which a user equipment may have radio links with a plurality of cells, and in which the cells with which the user equipment has radio links define an active set, wherein the uplink transmission frame timing is defined with reference to the downlink transmission frame timing of a reference cell selected from said active set,

the method comprising:

when the reference cell is removed from the active set, defining a virtual reference cell, the timing of which is defined with reference to one ~~or more~~ of the cells remaining in the active set, such that the timing of the virtual reference cell corresponds to the timing of the previous reference cell; and

defining the uplink transmission frame timing relative to the timing of the virtual reference cell.

2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the uplink transmission frame timing is defined to be a fixed time after the virtual reference cell timing.

3. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 2, for use in UMTS, wherein the uplink transmission frame timing is defined to be T_0 (=1,024 chips) after the virtual reference cell timing.

4. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the virtual reference cell timing is defined with reference to the active cell which first joined the active set.

5. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the virtual reference cell timing is defined with reference to the active cell whose downlink transmission timing most closely corresponds to the downlink transmission timing of the previous reference cell.

6. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the virtual reference cell timing is defined with reference to the active cell from which the strongest signal is being received.

7. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the virtual reference cell timing is defined with reference to the average timing of all of the cells in the active set.

8. (Currently Amended) A mobile communications device, for use in a mobile communications system in which a mobile communications device may have radio links with a plurality of cells, and in which the cells with which the device has radio links define an active set,

wherein the device comprises:

means for defining an uplink transmission frame timing with reference to the downlink transmission frame timing of a reference cell selected from said active set, and wherein the device is adapted, when the reference cell is removed from the active set, to: define a virtual reference cell, the timing of which is defined with reference to one ~~or more~~ of the cells remaining in the active set, such that the timing of the virtual reference cell corresponds to the timing of the previous reference cell; and to define the uplink transmission frame timing relative to the timing of the virtual reference cell.

9. (Original) A mobile communications device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the uplink transmission frame timing is defined to be a fixed time after the virtual reference cell timing.

10. (Original) A mobile communications device as claimed in claim 8, for use in UMTS, wherein the uplink transmission frame timing is defined to be T_0 (=1,024 chips) after the virtual reference cell timing.

11. (Original) A mobile communications device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the virtual reference cell timing is defined with reference to the active cell which first joined the active set.

12. (Original) A mobile communications device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the virtual reference cell timing is defined with reference to the active cell whose downlink transmission timing most closely corresponds to the downlink transmission timing of the previous reference cell.

13. (Original) A mobile communications device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the virtual reference cell timing is defined with reference to the active cell from which the strongest signal is being received.

14. (Original) A mobile communications device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the virtual reference cell timing is defined with reference to the average timing of all of the cells in the active set.